

The 35th annual Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals

This was a double anniversary year; we celebrated our 35th year, and more momentously, 2026 was the 100th anniversary of the debut of the Pontiac brand. It has been 17 years since production ended, but the loyalty of Pontiac enthusiasts remains incredibly strong!

Despite air quality index warnings due to Canadian wildfire smoke, and a persistent forecast for a rainy weekend; Pontiac fans turned out in solid numbers for their annual pilgrimage to Summit Motorsports Park, in Norwalk, Ohio. This year over 10,000 spectators came to celebrate Pontiac's 100th anniversary!

Our featured entertainment for this year was "East Bound and Down"...a Smokey and the Bandit tribute. They did a great job and were well received by everyone in attendance!

The swap meet sold out in May; as it has for the past 9 years! The Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals continues to be the event to attend if you are looking for parts to finish your show car. The car corral was filled with a wide variety of vehicles, from projects to some very nice, ready-to-drive Pontiacs, as well.

Saturday is car show day; although we again offered early registration on Friday afternoon, which helps a lot with registration and parking on Saturday morning! By mid-afternoon there were 440 cars on display. Mike Guess brought 2 cars from his collection; a 1926 Pontiac coach and a 2010 Solstice convertible. We also had the last production Pontiac, a G6 sedan, courtesy of Tim Dye and the Pontiac Transportation Museum, in Pontiac, MI.

The race side is always busy; we had 342 race cars entered in the various classes available. Due to rain late on Sunday last year, we couldn't finish the "Chief of the Pontiacs" race. We ran it on Saturday, and for the first time ever, we had a back-to-back winner! Rick Shofner, from Athens, IL, our 2024 "Chief" won again to be our 2025 "Chief". Congratulations Rick! Weather wasn't an issue this year, and Billy Farrell, from Farmington, PA won the 2026 "Chief of the Pontiacs" race, sponsored by 1 A-Auto.

You won't want to miss the 36th annual Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals, scheduled for the 16th 17th & 18th of July, 2027, mark your calendars now and make plans to attend!